

SECOND BIENNIAL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR

January 1, 1950

June 30, 1949, marked the close of the second biennium of the State Library Extension Commission's operation.

Staff

Secretary: Ellen Torgrimson

Assistants: Mrs. F. A. Jahnke

July 1947 - August 1948

Mrs. Robert Leinart

Sept. 1948 - April 1949

Mary Helen Holmes

June 20 - August 20, 1949

Part-time clerical workers:

Mrs. Bruce Brown

1947 - 1948

Mrs. Clayton Herron

1948 - 1949

Mrs. Kenneth Bergum

1949

Bonnie Hamman

1949

S.L.E.C. Board

Kathleen Campbell, Montana State University Library, Chairman

Mrs. W. T. Perham, Glendive 1945-1948 (declined reappointment)

*Margaret Fulmer, Great Falls Public Library, Vice chairman 1946-1949

Mrs. R. C. Dillavou, Billings 1945-1950

Mrs. D. C. Warren, Glendive 1948-1951 (replaced Mrs. Perham)

**Elizabeth Ireland, State Supt. of Public Instruction 1945-1949

**Mary M. Condon, State Supt. of Public Instruction 1949-

Meetings

At the request of the secretary, a meeting of the Board was called at Missoula on September 19, 1947. All members were present except Miss Ireland. The secretary pointed out the need for regular and more

* New appointment not made by Governor

** Ex-officio

frequent meetings of the Board: for larger headquarters, preferably at Helena; and for more adequate staff. The chairman was instructed to request space for the Commission at the Capitol. A committee was appointed to frame by-laws. Development of statewide library service through Regional set-ups was discussed.

On February 16, 1949, a meeting was held at Billings with all members present except Miss Ireland. By-laws* were adopted at this meeting, and a plan for a Regional Library demonstration in the southeastern part of the state was discussed.

In May 1948, Board members attended the annual meeting of the Montana State Library Association at Libby. An official board meeting was held on May 3rd. All members except Mrs. Perham were present. There was preliminary discussion of the 1949-1951 budget. A policy regarding travel by members to other than Board meetings was adopted. A Library Planning committee for Montana was discussed with some names suggested for presentation to the M. S. L. A. president.

At the next meeting in Billings on October 4, 1948, all members except Miss Ireland were present. A tentative budget for the 1949-1951 biennium was presented and discussed. The addition of a professionally trained assistant librarian and a full-time clerical to the staff was approved. The total of the budget request was \$38,057.12. The possibilities of increased cooperation between the S.L.E.C. and the State Department of Public Instruction were discussed.

On May 4, 1949, the Board met in Billings with all members present except Miss Campbell. The inadequacy of library service in the state was discussed, with particular reference to the need for a library survey and possibilities of securing outside help on the project. The need for effective publicity to sell the S.L.E.C. to the public.

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and the legislature in order to secure a more adequate budget was discussed.

Statistical Report

Circulation	61,255
Interlibrary loans	432 (July 1948-June 1949)
Book collection	11,500 volumes
Registered borrowers	550 (Includes schools, libraries & individuals)
Equipment purchased	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1 Smith-Corona typewriter1 Allen-Sales binding machine2 Steel typewriter tables2 Steel typist chairs6 Sections double wood shelving1 Discharging truck1 Wooden book truck2 Films

Publication of a quarterly, MONTANA LIBRARIES, was begun in October 1947. Three hundred fifty copies are printed. The mailing list includes all librarians in the state, all State Library agencies and Library Schools in the U. S. and Canada; the American Library Association, Library of Congress, and other persons and organizations interested in receiving the publication.

Cost of the issues:	Vol. 1	Oct. 1947	\$36.91
		Jan. 1948	49.84
		Apr. 1948	35.28
		July 1948	49.66

	Vol. 2	Oct. 1948	65.18
		Jan. 1949	81.48
		Apr. 1949	49.62
		July 1949	50.21

<u>Budget for biennium</u>	<u>1947-1948</u>	<u>1948-1949</u>	<u>Balance June 30, 1949</u>
643-1 Salary of secretary	2,700.00	2,900.00	.08
2 Salary of assistants	1,810.00	1,870.00	.31
3 Purchase of books, etc.	5,300.00	5,350.00	.29
4 Supplies	1,140.00	1,140.00	2.08
5 Furniture & equipment	750.00	750.00	3.37
6 Travel	800.00	800.00	0.00
7 P.E.R.S.	216.08	55.90*	9.72

Travel

Conferences attended:

July 1947 San Francisco: Library Extension Institute
American Library Association

Sept. 1947 Seattle: Pacific Northwest Library Association

Jan. 1948 Chicago: American Library Association

May 1948 Libby: Montana State Library Association

June 1948 New Brunswick, N.J.: Library Legislation Institute
Atlantic City, N.J.; American Library Association

Sept. 1948 Glacier Park: Pacific Northwest Library Assoc.

March 1949 Billings: Northern Great Plains Library Planning Conference

May 1949 Billings: Montana State Library Association
Great Falls: Montana Institute of the Arts

During the summer of 1947 the secretary visited State Library agencies in North Dakota, Minnesota, Michigan and Washington to observe methods and procedures in these well established agencies.

One hundred twenty-three work days were spent traveling within the state. Sixty-three public libraries, 32 high school libraries, eight

* Emergency appropriation by 1949 legislature

college libraries, three institutional libraries and two special libraries have been visited.

Six high school libraries have asked for and received material help in reorganizing and improving their libraries. Throughout the state library facilities, in all but the Class A high schools, are totally inadequate. The collections are pitifully small with many of the books in the last stages of disintereration. The teacher in charge usually has had no special training for the work, is carrying a full teaching load, and has neither the time nor energy to devote to organizing and operating the library as it should be done. Usually the room is too small, poorly lighted and generally unattractive. Even when plans are being drawn for new school buildings the library receives scant attention. No thought is given to standards for adequate seating capacity, shelving facilities, work-rooms and proper furnishings.

The picture in the public library field is equally grim. Low valuations in many counties and cities yield small tax revenues for support of libraries. The income is not sufficient to pay the salary of a full-time librarian, least of all a professionally trained person. The library promoters are fortunate if they can find a small unoccupied building or room where the rent is low, install some crude shelving and odds and ends of furniture, and provide some means of heating and lighting. That the library exists at all is due to the determination and sacrifice of a few public spirited women who realize what an asset to a town a library can be. Too often the local officials are unsympathetic and un-cooperative.

The S.L.E.C. is attempting the colossal task of supplying books to supplement such inadequate book collections in Montana's libraries

and schools. Visits from the secretary bring the workers encouragement, help with their local problems, and a feeling that their efforts are worth-while.

The S.L.E.C. office acts as a medium for interlibrary loans, which bring to the isolated reader the very book he has been wanting or needing. Libraries also take advantage of this service and repeatedly express their appreciation.

Some help has been given in filling positions in the state, both in school and public libraries. This placement service will be expanded as time goes on.

The policy of the S.L.E.C. is to make every penny of its small budget count and to give as prompt and efficient service as possible. The interest, loyalty and cooperation of the S.L.E.C. staff from the beginning, despite the handicaps of crowded and inconvenient working conditions, has been an inspiration to the secretary in directing the work.

The need for more space for S.L.E.C. headquarters is most urgent, and it is hoped that some way may be found to solve this problem before the end of the next biennium.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Torgrimson

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Secretary